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Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Highway Division

East Oxbow Road Bridge Replacement Design Public Hearing

Charlemont, MA

Virtual Meeting | Tuesday, April 5, 2022 | 6:00 PM

Project File No. 608858

Zoom controls

- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers
- Ask a question and share comments
- Raise your hand
- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at [877 853 5247], Webinar ID: [823 1059 6449]

If you have trouble with the meeting technology during the presentation, please call:

[888-799-9666]

Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom

Public meeting notes and procedures

Important notes:

- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering the meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the presentation.
- Please take time to respond to our survey at the end of the presentation. Your feedback is important.

All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated, however we do request that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.

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Introductions

- **Town of Charlemont:** Sarah Reynolds (Town Administrator)
- **MassDOT Project Manager:** Shahpar Negah
- **MassDOT District:** Mark Devylder
- **MassDOT Right of Way:** Karen Axtell
- **MassDOT Producer/Facilitator:** Michael McNutt & Courtney Sulerud
- **CHA Consulting, Inc. Design Team:**

  Chris Wall, S.E. (Project Manager & Bridge Design)

  Carol Rogers, P.E. (Highway Design)
- **Stenographer:** David Fraser, from Arlington Typing & Mailing

Public Outreach

Newspaper Public Notice –

The Recorder

March 22nd & 29th

Shelburne Falls Independent

March 24th & 31st

Apr
05

Charlemont - Bridge Replacement, East Oxbow Road over Oxbow Brook

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Replacement of Bridge (C-05-042), East Oxbow Road over Oxbow Brook project in Charlemont, MA.

MassDOT Event Calendar –
www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings

Posted Notice at Charlemont Post Office, General Store, and Town Website:
https://charlemont-ma.us/n/20075/East-Oxbow-Bridge-Hearing

Direct Notification to Adjacent Property Owners

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Agenda

- Project Location
- Background
- Goals & Improvements
- Design Alternatives
- Right of Way
- Impacts
- Traffic Management
- Next Steps

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Project Location

- 2,000 Feet North of Route 2
- South of Hawk Hill Road Intersection
- Crosses Oxbow Brook
- East Oxbow Road turns into West Oxbow Road (only route around bridge)

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How did we get here?

2018-2020

Initial Studies

Summer
2021

CHA approved to start working on project and new scoping meeting

September
2021

Bridge Type Selection

November
2021

25% Design submitted

April
2022

Design Public Hearing

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Why was this project initiated?

Existing Issues

- **Structurally Deficient**
  - Posted to Restrict Truck Weights
  - 1 of 4 Steel Beams Out-of-Service with Concrete Barriers
- **Only One Lane of Traffic**
- **Limited Sight Distance**
- **Substandard Bridge Rails and Approach Guardrails**

Existing Issues (Cont.)

- Inadequate Hydraulic Opening Below Bridge

- Monitoring Pressures

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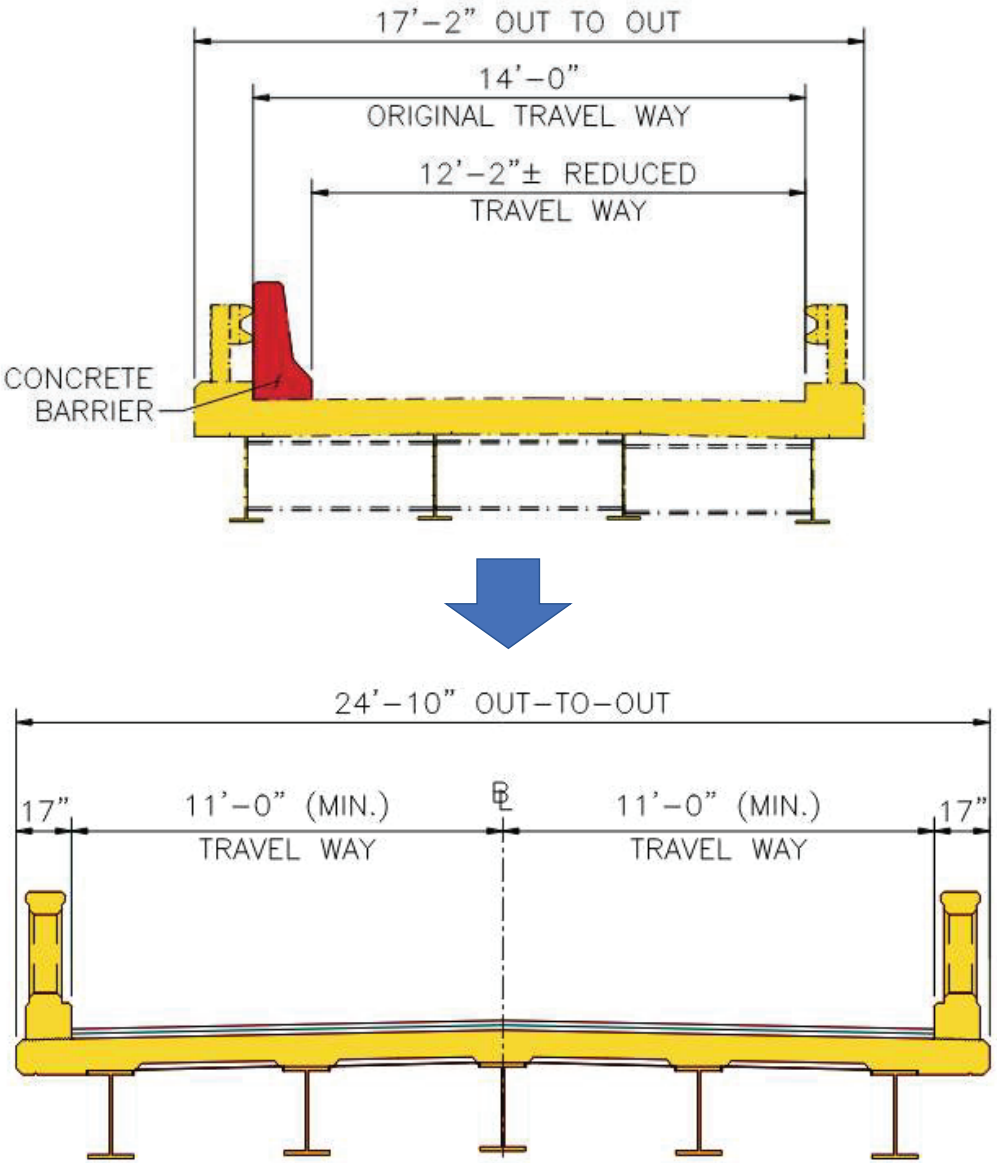


What do we want to accomplish?

Project Scope & Goals

- **Full Structure Replacement**
  - New Superstructure (Deck & Beams)
  - New Concrete Foundations
  - Design to Current Standards
- **Two Lanes of Traffic**
- **Improve Sight Distance**
  - Adjust Roadway Vertical Profile
  - Modify Horizontal Alignment

Project Scope & Goals

- New Standard Bridge Barriers & Approach Guardrails
- Improve Hydraulic Opening
- Maintain Traffic Throughout Construction

Right of Way Acquisition Procedures

Right of Way (ROW) discussion – 25% Design

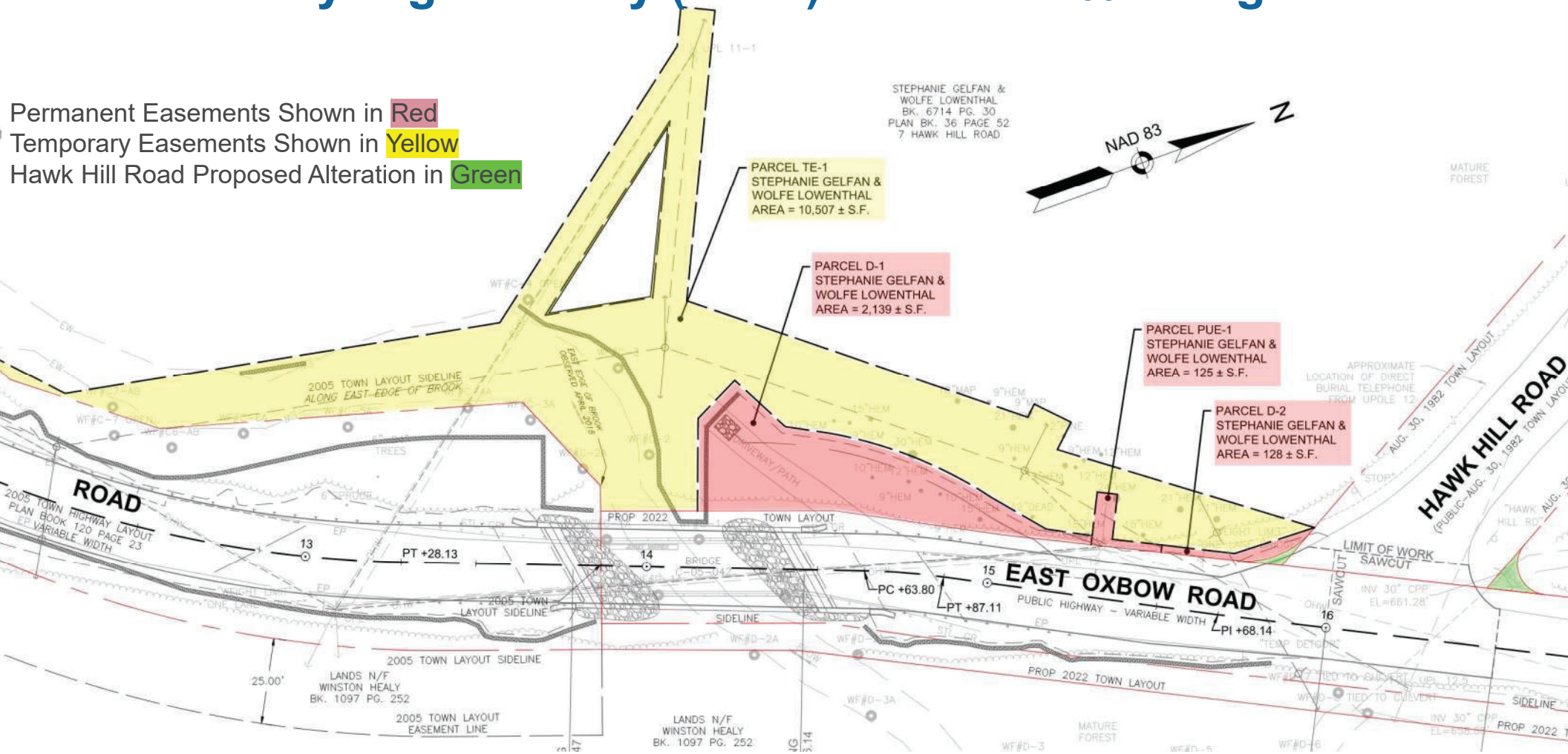
- Responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of a project.
- Affected property owners will be contacted by personnel from the Town Of Charlemont or consultants representing the Town Of Charlemont.
- Procedures must comply with state and federal regulations governing the acquisition process.
  - Property owners are protected under Massachusetts General Laws, primarily Chapter 79.
  - If project receives federal funds, property owners are further protected under Title III of the Real Property Act of 1970, as amended.
- Fee takings, permanent easements, and/or temporary construction easements may be required.
- Preliminary plans are available for review at the Charlemont Town Hall.

Project Cost, Programming, & Funding

- Current/Preliminary Estimated Total Construction Costs ~ **$3,700,000**
- Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP/TIP) Federal **Fiscal Year 2023**
- Federal Funding:
  - Federal Highway Administration 80%
  - MassDOT 20%

Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) Plans – 25% Design

Permanent Easements Shown in Red
Temporary Easements Shown in Yellow
Hawk Hill Road Proposed Alteration in Green



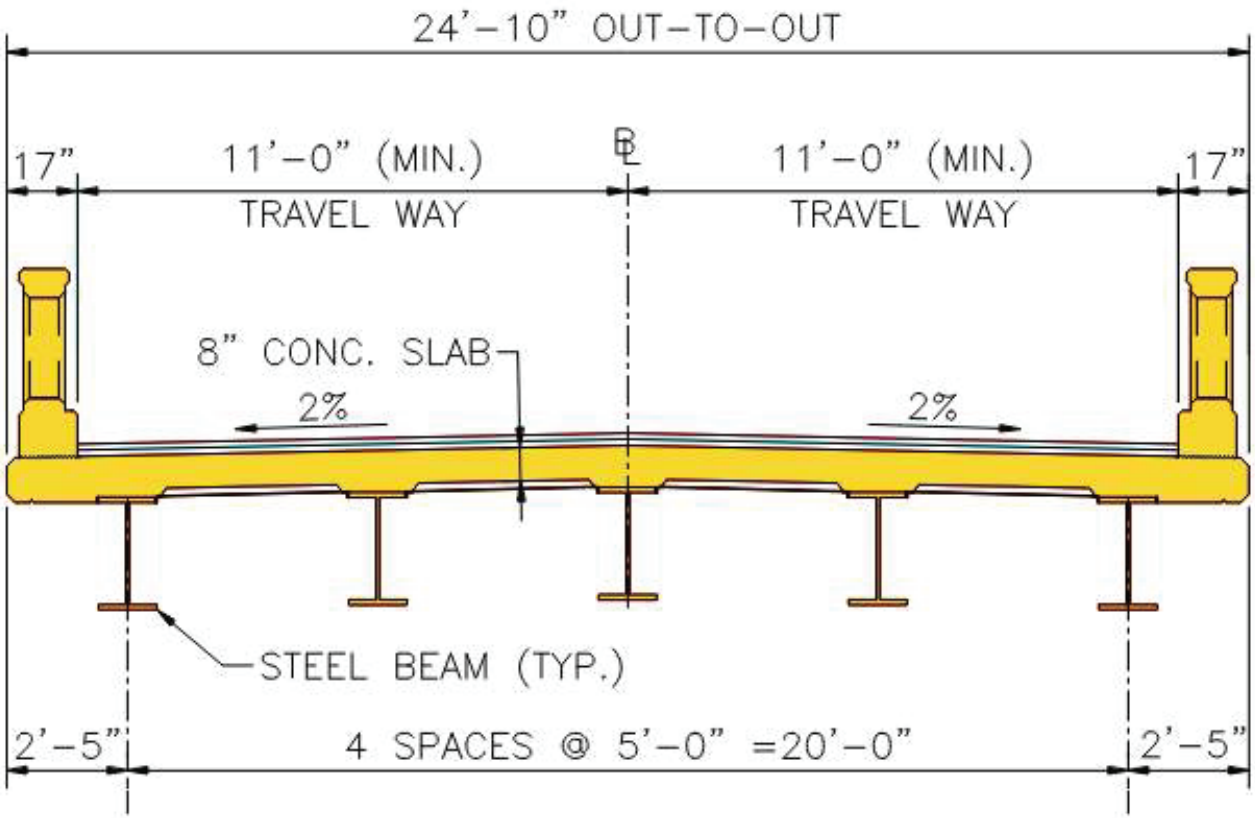
What alternatives were considered?

Bridge Alternatives

- Adjacent Prestressed Concrete Box Beams
- Spread Prestressed Concrete Box Beams with a Composite Concrete Deck
- NEXT Beams
- Steel Stringers with a Composite Concrete Deck

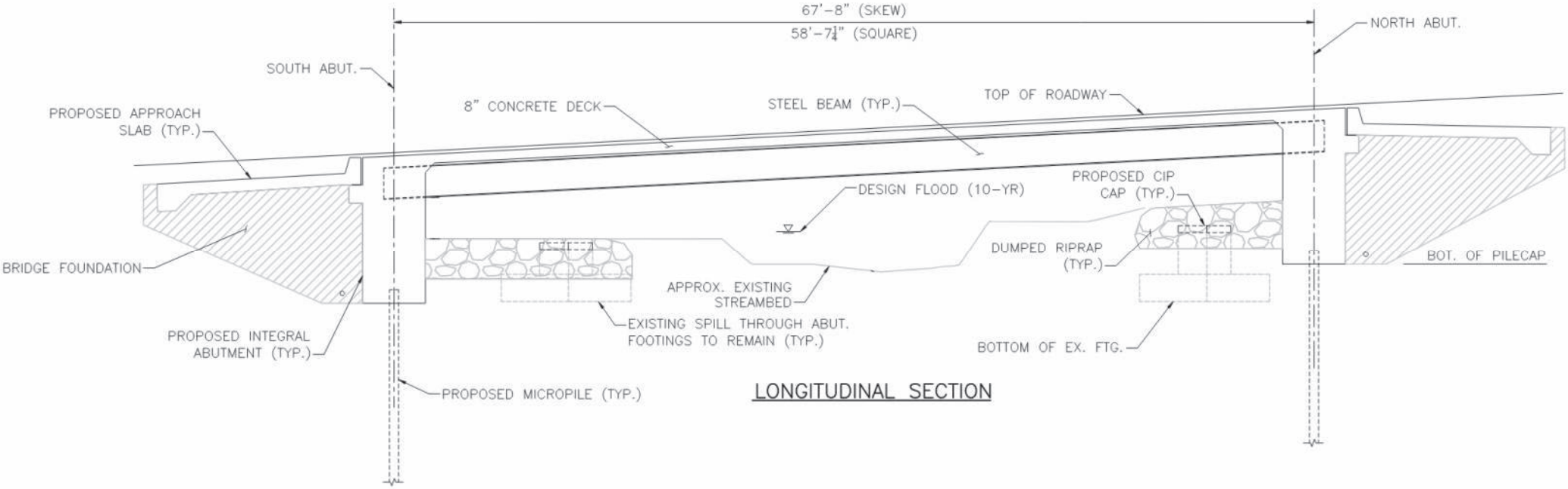
What is the preferred alternative?

Steel Stringers with a Composite Concrete Deck

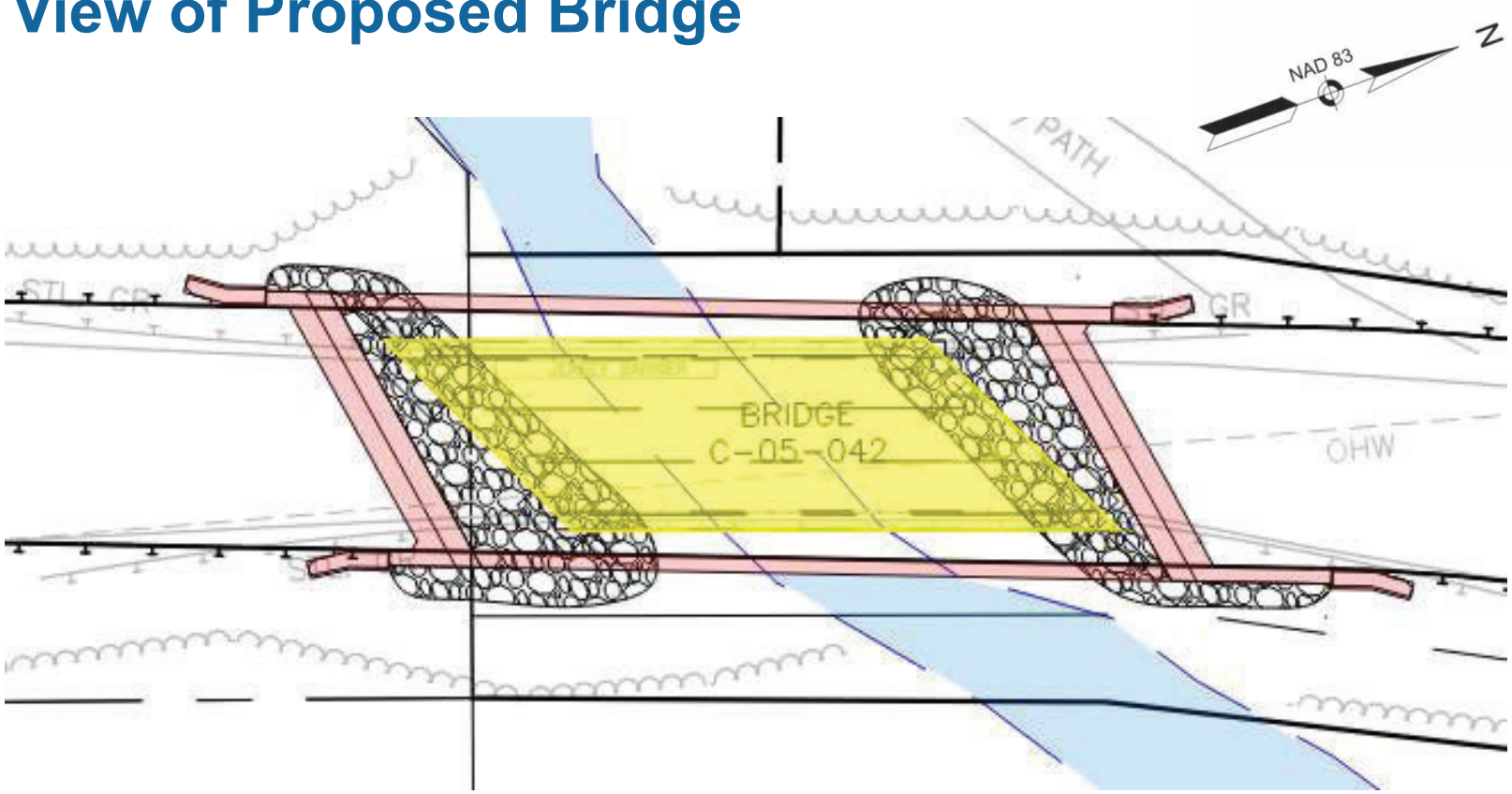


PROPOSED CROSS SECTION

Longitudinal Section of Proposed Bridge



Plan View of Proposed Bridge



Proposed Bridge Limits Shown in Red
Existing Bridge Limits Shown in Yellow

What are the environmental and cultural resource impacts?

Environmental & Cultural Resource

- **Environmental**
  - Obtain Necessary Environmental Permits
  - Use of Erosion and Sediment Control Barriers
  - Tree Removal to Facilitate Construction

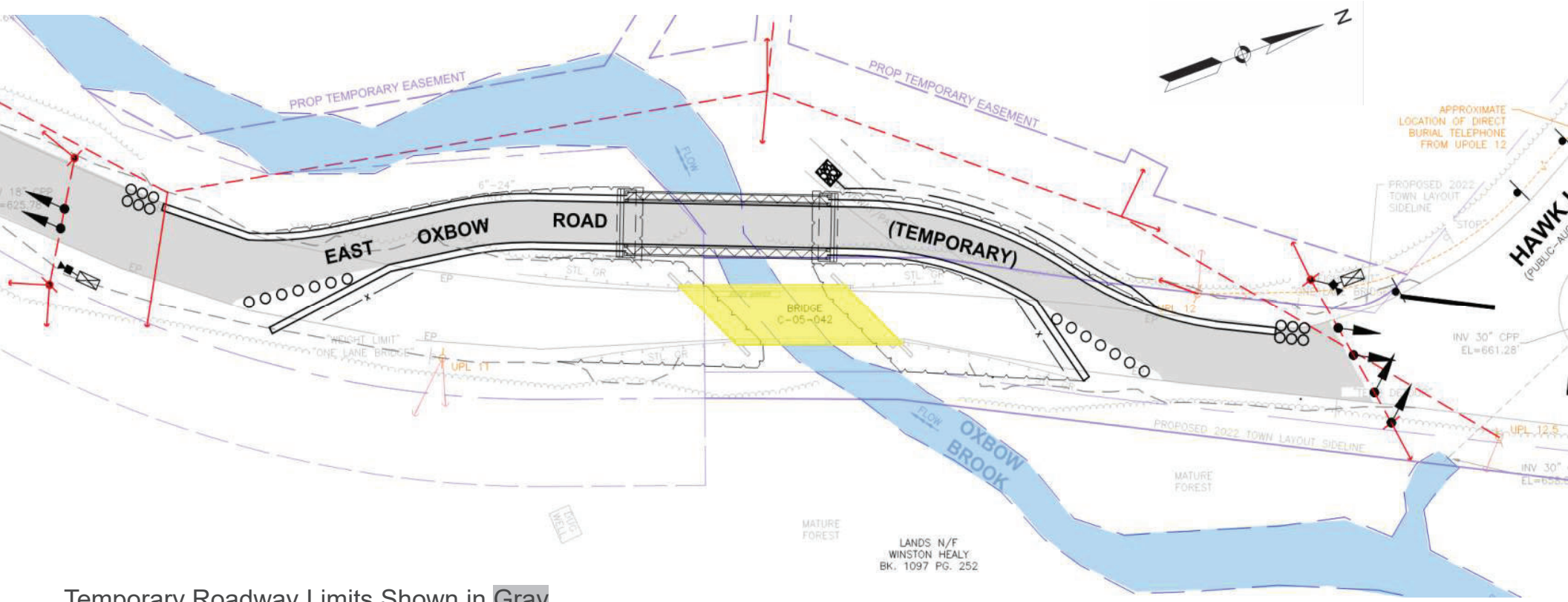
- **Cultural Resource**
  - No Work Proposed on Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR) Land East of Bridge
  - Land West of Bridge with Chapter 61 Restrictions Require Temporary Easements

What is the construction approach?

Full Bridge Closure with Temporary Bridge

- **No Traffic on Existing Bridge During Construction**
  - Entire Bridge Demolished at Once
  - Traffic Pattern Temporarily Shifts
- **Temporary Bridge**
  - Constructed West of Existing Bridge
  - One Traffic Lane Wide
  - One Lane of Alternating Traffic for Majority of Construction
  - Traffic Signals Required to Allow Vehicles to Travel from Both Approaches
- **Short-Term Closures**
  - Narrow Space for Construction
  - Detour Necessary for Various Construction Activities (Beam Installation, Paving, etc.)

Temporary Bridge with Traffic Controls



Temporary Roadway Limits Shown in Gray
Existing Bridge Limits Shown in Yellow

How will the road user be affected?

Road User Impacts

- **Limited Traffic Delays**
  - Low Traffic Volume
  - Signal for Alternating Traffic Direction over Temporary Bridge
- **Limited Detours**
  - Anticipated for Some Short Construction Activities Due to Limited Space
  - Only Route is West Oxbow Road
  - Detour is Approx. 4.7 Miles (~ 10-15 Min.)
- **Safety**
  - Barriers Separating Construction Work Zone
  - Traffic Controls & Signing Directing Vehicles
- **Hawk Hill Road**
  - Access Maintained Throughout Construction

Short-Term Detour

Our next steps

1. Incorporate Comments Into Project Design
2. Prepare Final Design Submissions for MassDOT and Town of Charlemont
3. Obtain Environmental Permits and ROW Easements
4. Prepare Plans and Specifications for Bidding
5. Advertise for Bidding

Fall/Winter 2023

How to reach us?

Contact Information

- **Email comments directly to MassDOT (preferred)**
  - MassDOTprojectmanagement@state.ma.us
  - Subject Line: **Public Hearing Comments: Project File No. 608858**

  - Website address (Project Handout Form) – QR Code
  - www.mass.gov/MassDOT-highway-design-public-hearings

- **Mail comments to MassDOT**
  - Mail-in-sheet on last page of Handout, posted at website above
  - Comments postmarked within 10 days of when webinar was published will be included hearing transcript
  - Mail to: Carrie Lavallee, P.E.
    Chief Engineer MassDOT
    Attn: Project Management
    Project File 609070
    10 Park Plaza
    Boston, MA 02116

Questions and discussion

Questions and answers

- "Raise your hand" to be unmuted for verbal questions
- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button
- Please state your name before your question
- Please share only 1 question or comment at a time, limited to 2 minutes, to allow others to participate
- To ask a question via phone, dial *9 and the moderator will call out the last 4-digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn.
- Please take a few minutes to complete the survey after the meeting to let us know how your experience was with this virtual meeting.

All questions and comments are subject to disclosure for public records. Please use these functions for project related business only.

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    Chief Engineer MassDOT
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    10 Park Plaza
    Boston, MA 02116

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Thank You

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Project Manager – Shahpar Negah